

# Fort Ord Regional Trail and Greenway (FORTAG) Project

## Notice of Preparation: Comments Received

Commenters	Summary of Key Issues and Concerns
Agencies	
<b>Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Central Coast Field Office</b>	<p>Recommends consideration of different Trail use patterns by recreational users compared to commuters, and design features or rules that could reduce conflicts; concern that agency use of the Blue Line Road into the National Monument could be affected by FORTAG; concern about habitat management in the “Borderland Parcels” along the western edge of the National Monument; recommendation that the Trail within Borderland Parcels and across the Blue Line Road should be built to support vehicle use by agency staff, especially for the purpose of fire prevention; recommendation to include the Jerry Smith Access Trail as a FORTAG segment</p>
<b>United States Army Fort Ord Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Field Office</b>	<p>Requests that requirements of the Installation-wide Multispecies Habitat Management Plan for Fort Ord be incorporated into the project analysis; requests that provisions from deeds to former Fort Ord properties be considered, including safety requirements related to munitions and reservation of access by the Army, particularly to the Blue Line Road; request for coordination between TAMC, Army BRAC Field Office, and BLM regarding safety/trespassing; requests consideration that hazardous materials cleanups and prescribed burns are both ongoing in the former Fort Ord</p>
<b>Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA)</b>	<p>Encourages consistency with FORA’s Regional Urban Design Guidelines; recommends including trailhead facilities, including one restroom along the National Monument Loop segment and another near the Marina Airport; requests consideration of the greenway element of the project in relation to wildlife connectivity, noting that greenway use could spread invasive species; recommends an integrated invasive species control program, including informational signage</p>
<b>California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)</b>	<p>The project could result in “take” of special-status species, pollution to Waters of the State, and diversion/obstruction of streams; numerous special-status species occur within the project study area; recommends mitigation measures.</p>

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<b>California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)</b>		Support for projects that are consistent with State planning priorities and for projects that support smart growth principles; work in Caltrans right-of-way would require an encroachment permit from Caltrans and must be done to Caltrans standards	
<b>California State Parks</b>		Consult with Caltrans and the City of Seaside regarding use and maintenance of the existing undercrossing at 1 <sup>st</sup> Street; opening the underpass would provide separation between cars and pedestrians/bikes	
<b>Native American Heritage Commission</b>		The project will require compliance with Assembly Bill 52	
<b>University of California, Santa Cruz</b>		Concerns about trespassing on the University of California, Santa Cruz Fort Ord Natural Reserve; requests dates of the project's biological surveys and asks whether or not the time period was adequate to assess the presence of annual rare plants	
<b>California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB)</b>		Requests that the EIR analyze and mitigate potential impacts specific to the campus, such as tree removal, stormwater, maintenance, lighting, safety at crossings, and CSUMB permit requirements, and asks TAMC to work with CSUMB and the Veterans Administration regarding trail alignment	
<b>City of Monterey</b>		Consider motion sensor lighting; conduct a biological assessment for the entire Trail; consider transportation impacts at the Del Monte Avenue/Roberts Lake crossing; include Trail amenities; requests revisions to the project map to identify portions of the North Fremont Ped & Bike project that are constructed or included in FORTAG; study the reconstruction of the Fremont/State Route (SR) 218 intersection; study the safety and aesthetic impacts of underpasses; study the widening of South Boundary Road instead of aligning the Trail through the City's "shark-fin" property	
<b>Marina Municipal Airport</b>		Describes need for coordination between the Marina Municipal Airport, City of Marina, Federal Aviation Administration, and TAMC regarding Trail access on airport property	

### Organizations and Individuals

<b>Commenters</b>		<b>Summary of Key Issues and Concerns</b>	
<b>Fort Ord Recreation Trails Friends</b>		Recommends that Trail rules are consistent across jurisdictions	
<b>California Native Plant Society</b>		Requests that plant surveys include all potential California Native Plant Society List 4 species in addition to List 1 rare plants;	

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<b>Monterey Bay Chapter</b>	concerns about the Trail resulting in invasive weed proliferation; concerns about management of a fire break zone on the west side of the Trail between Del Rey Oaks and Marina
<b>Monterey Off-Road Cycling Association</b>	No issues or concerns; FORTAG is consistent with the organization’s mission and goals; believe the project will have a beneficial effect on the mountain bike community.
<b>Don Gruber</b>	Concerns about impacts to wildlife resulting from routing Trail through Frog Pond; opposition to allowing bikes at Frog Pond
<b>James Waidler</b>	Request to prohibit biking at Frog Pond
<b>Roberta Freeman</b>	Concerns about the proposed alignment along Angelus Way related to homelessness; recommendation for the Trail to run along SR 218 as an alternative to the proposed alignment in Del Rey Oaks
<b>Cameron Stormes</b>	Concerns about impacts to biological resources at Frog Pond; notes that Frog Pond could be pedestrian-only
<b>Nina Muñoz</b>	Opposition to allowing bikes at Frog Pond
<b>T. Foster</b>	Concerns about safety on SR 218; concern about noise from SR 218; suggestion to improve the bike lane on SR 218 as an alternative to the proposed alignment in Del Rey Oaks
<b>Cindy Hickey</b>	Concerns about over-tourism in a small town due to the regional scope of the project; suggest strict ordinance restricting number of events hosted on the Del Rey Oaks portion of the project, concerns about increase in crime as a result of more people in the neighborhood due to project; personal and financial liability for homeowners regarding bridges over existing creek; concerns about the proposed alignment related to homelessness and drug use; concerns related to parking impacts due to project; concern character of Frog Pond will change; suggest a lighted crosswalk instead of the proposed tunnel at SR 218
<b>Scoping Meeting Verbal Comments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety and aesthetic impacts at underpasses</li> <li>• Lighting impacts on residences and habitats</li> <li>• Geologic stability at Work Memorial Park and along Angelus Way</li> <li>• Impacts at Frog Pond related to flooding, pedestrian/bicycle conflicts, visual impacts, Trail cutting, and transient encampments</li> <li>• Recommendation to utilize SR 218 as an alternative to the proposed alignment in Del Rey Oaks</li> </ul>

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- Recommendation of an overpass rather than underpass at General Jim Moore Boulevard
  - Food safety risks and liability issues related to Trail use near agriculture
  - Recommendation of dual use of the Blue Line Road for Trail use and agency access
  - Recommendation to utilize the State Route 1 (SR 1) pedestrian underpass west of CSUMB rather than the vehicular underpass
  - Recommendation for solar-powered and/or motion sensor lighting
  - Recommendation to shift the Trail eastward to provide more access to the National Monument
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